(ग) विभिन्न केन्द्रीय प्रायोजित योजनाओं के संबंध में भिन्न-भिन्न राज्यों को निधियों का पूर्व आबंटन नहीं किया जाता । राज्यों से प्राप्त प्रस्तावों और संबंधित योजनाओं के कार्यान्वयन की प्रगति के आधार पर केन्द्रीय सहायता नियुक्त की जाती है । तथापि, आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान, केन्द्रीय प्रायोजित योजनाओं, के सबध में सभी राज्यों/संघ शासित क्षेत्रों के लिए निर्धारित कुल धन राशि 300 करोड़ रुपए है ।

Production of fruits and vegetables

4870. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1684 given in the Rajya Sabha regarding production of fruits and vegetables on 24-3-95 and state:

(a) the total production of major produces during 1993-94 and the area of land under cultivation of these items;

(b) whether it is a fact that the prices of fruits and vegetables are increasing day by day in the country, particularly in Delhi; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Data on area and production of major horticultural crops during 1993-94 has not yet been received from the States/UTs.

(b) and (c) The recent increase in the prices of fruits and vegetables, is mainly on account of seasonal conditions. In Delhi, the National Dairy Development Board is procuring fruits & vegetable directly from the farmers and selling the same through their retail shops to help in prices stabilisation.

Development of new varieties of food crops by ICAR

4871. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICAR associated with Consultative Grant on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) have embarked on a Project that aims to develop new varieties of food crops;

(b) whether this is a low cost approach to fight malnutrition that could improve farm production and benefit this environment at the same time as reported in the "Hindustan Times" dated 19th April, 1995;

(c) if so, what steps ICAR are taking to produce in India the nutrient packed crops; and

(d) whether any coordination cell in Agra is functioning and whether budgetary provisions are made therefor during 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian Council of Agricultural Research has on going regular collaborations with CGIAR Centres namely IRRI, CIMMYT, ICARDA and ICRISAT to develop improve varieties of different food grain crops.

(b) and (c) Development of high yielding varieties with high nutritional value is a low cost approach to improve farm production, fight malnutrition and benefit the environment. In the Indian situation special emphasis is laid on the improvement of protein contents in all food grain crops.

(d) No co-ordination unit & ICAR under the food grain programmes is functional at Agra.

Newspaper report on US patents

4872. SHRI KRISHANA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the Press report captioned "US patents may hit Indian farmers" as reported in Statesman dated 27th February, 1995;